

Message Text

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14

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 EB-03 SPC-03 OMB-01 AID-10 AGR-03

PRS-01 DRC-01 /068 W

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R 252031Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6162

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 0369

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PFOR, HO, ES

SUBJ: HONDURAS/SALVADOR: FEBRUARY CHIEF OF STATE MEETING

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0315

1. AS MENTIONED REFTTEL, PEZZULLO WAS UNABLE TO SEE FONMIN BATRES BECAUSE THE LATTER WAS OUT OF TOWN WORKING ON THE SALVADOR PROBLEM. HE LEFT ON JAN 19 AND WAS STILL GONE ON JAN 23. FONMINISTRY PROTOCOL SIMPLY SAID HE WAS "OUT OF TOWN". A FRIEND TOLD US HE HAD GONE TO MEXICO.

2. WHEN DCM ON JAN 23 ASKED FINMIN ACOSTA BONILLA WHAT BATRES WAS DOING IN MEXICO, ACOSTA GAVE EQUIVALENT OF HORSELAUGH, SAID BATRES HAD NOT GONE TO MEXICO, AND THAT DCM OBVIOUSLY KNEW VERY WELL WHERE HE WAS. HE WAS, IN ACOSTA'S WORDS, "SEARCHING FOR FORMULAE TO SOLVE DISPUTE."

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3. GEN LOPEZ TOLD US ON JAN 24 ABOUT THE CHIEF OF STATE'S MEETING SET FOR FEB 8 AND UNDERTOOK TO BRIEF US ON ITS RESULTS. CURIOUSLY ENOUGH, HE RAISED THE SUBJECT AFTER DISCUSSING BASIC GRAIN SHORTAGES IN CA, DETAILING THE GRAIN ORDER PRESSURES FROM HIS NEIGHBORS AND ALLUDING TO THE SMUGGLING OF HONDURAN GRAINS INTO NICARAGUA AND GUATEMALA. HE THOUGHT IT WAS A GOOD JOKE THAT SINCE MUCH GUATEMALAN SMUGGLED GRAIN WOUND UP IN SALVADOR, IT AMOUNTED TO "THREE CORNERED TRADE."

4. AID DIRECTOR WAS TOLD THAT PLANNING CHIEF MANLIO MARTINEZ IS BUSY PREPARING DOCUMENT FOR GEN LOPEZ TO TAKE TO NICARAGUA MEETING, WHICH WILL EXPLAIN CURRENT GOH ECONOMIC PLANS.

5. COMMENT: WE DO NOT KNOW WHY LOPEZ IS PREPARING BRIEFS ON HIS INTERNAL ECONOMIC SITUATION FOR THE FEB MEETING. IT COULD MEAN (A) THE ORIGINAL AGENDA IS BEING ENLARGED OR (B) LOPEZ PRIVATELY PLANS TO TAKE ALONG SOMETHING WHICH HE CAN UTILIZE TO DEFUSE NEIGHBORLY SUSPICIONS AND PUT HIS PROGRAM IN BETTER LIGHT.
SANCHEZ

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